

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A hydraulic distributor comprising an input element with a scavenging valve, having a body (2) provided with orifices for respective connection (P) to the pump, (T) to the reservoir and (LS) for a return of information to the pump, the body having a bore (3) which can place in communication the orifices (P) and (T) respectively connected to the pump and to the reservoir, inside which bore is mounted a piston (8) which is able to establish or not to establish this communication, one end of the piston being subjected to the pressure of the pump and the other end thereof being subjected to the pressure (LS) for the return of information and to the pressure of a spring (7), characterized in that the pressure exerted by the spring (7) is substantially equal to the delivery pressure of the pump, and the piston (8) and/or the body (2) have or has orifices (8) for placing in communication the chambers (4, 5) situated on the pump (P)-side and reservoir (T)-side when the distributor is in the rest position.

2. (Currently Amended) The hydraulic distributor as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the cross section of the orifices (8) allows the passage of a flow of between 10 and 15% of the maximum installed flow, under a pressure of around 15 bar.

3. (Currently Amended) The hydraulic distributor as claimed in ~~either of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that the orifices (8) for placing in communication the chambers situated on the pump (P)-side and reservoir (T)-side consist of cutouts or slots opening into

the outer surface of the piston or into the surface of the bodies delimiting the bore for the piston.

4. (Currently Amended) The hydraulic distributor as claimed in ~~either of claims 1 and 2~~
claim 1, characterized in that the orifices for placing in communication the chambers situated on the pump (P)-side and reservoir (T)-side consist of at least one duct formed in the piston or in the body.

5. (Currently Amended) The hydraulic distributor as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~
claim 1, characterized in that the cross section of the orifices (8) for placing in communication the chambers situated on the pump (P)-side and reservoir (T)-side varies as a function of the characteristics of the distribution slide valve.

6. (New) The hydraulic distributor as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the orifices for placing in communication the chambers situated on the pump side and reservoir side consist of cutouts or slots opening into the outer surface of the piston or into the surface of the bodies delimiting the bore for the piston.

7. (New) The hydraulic distributor as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the orifices for placing in communication the chambers situated on the pump side and reservoir side consist of at least one duct formed in the piston or in the body.

8. (New) The hydraulic distributor as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the cross section of the orifices for placing in communication the chambers situated on the pump

side and reservoir side varies as a function of the characteristics of the distribution slide valve.

9. (New) The hydraulic distributor as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the cross section of the orifices for placing in communication the chambers situated on the pump side and reservoir side varies as a function of the characteristics of the distribution slide valve.

10. (New) The hydraulic distributor as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the cross section of the orifices for placing in communication the chambers situated on the pump side and reservoir side varies as a function of the characteristics of the distribution slide valve.